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Meet the Mayors



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Meet the Mayors of Orange County

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is our first edition of *Meet the Mayors of Orange County*, which we will publish annually in October. Thank you for including this among your reading choices.

The quality of communities are directly related to the quality of the leadership. The brief articles herein are an introduction. Each of the city web sites are in their mastheads where you can go online to read in-depth information.

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City of Aliso Viejo

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A Tradition of Giving Back



Tiffany Ackley
Mayor

It has been an honor to serve the City of Aliso Viejo as Mayor in 2021, helping guide this community alongside my fellow Council Members. Over the past year and throughout this pandemic, I've seen firsthand how we've come together to lift each other up and support each other in every way.

I am proud of the integral role Aliso Viejo played in the County of Orange's COVID-19 response by hosting a vaccine Super POD site. Through the combined efforts of our City partners, residents, volunteers, and City staff, we helped administer more than 283,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

In 2021 we held the grand opening of the historic Aliso Viejo Ranch, a project years in the making. A unique piece of our City's history, this venue is open for the community to gather, hold special events, participate in recreation classes, and learn about sustainable urban farming. Through a partnership with a local farmer, the City has already donated more than 500 pounds of fresh produce to a non-profit food pantry.

We also celebrated a significant milestone as a City with our 20th Anniversary. As a long-time resident of South Orange County, I have been privileged to watch this city grow; from the many businesses that have planted their roots here to the development of our iconic and historic landmarks such as Aliso Viejo Ranch. I am proud to raise my family here and humbled by the opportunity to represent the City as a Council Member since 2018. Aliso Viejo has truly blossomed into a thriving community that we can all be so proud to live, work, and play in every single day.

City of Anaheim

200 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92805 • 714/765-4311 • anaheim.net

Greetings from Anaheim



Harry Sidhu
Mayor

Anaheim is known locally and the world over as the home of Disneyland, Walt Disney's original theme park, as well as for Angels Baseball and Anaheim Ducks hockey.

For those who live here, Anaheim is a community of distinct neighborhoods within Orange County's largest and most high-profile city.

It is my honor to serve them all as mayor, the single citywide representative position on our City Council.

As Anaheim's first immigrant mayor in current times, I'm proud to represent a modern and diverse city with a long history.

Empowering the American Dream is my leadership vision for Anaheim.

It's a perspective shared by many in our city. More than half of Anaheim residents trace their origins from somewhere else, and they have helped make Anaheim a city that embraces those looking to fulfill their American Dream.

As mayor, I encourage a strong economy to serve our residents, improve our neighborhoods and create opportunity for all.

We are proud that Anaheim is a place of joy for the world. But our visitor economy is much more than that.

As evidenced during the pandemic, our theme parks, convention center and sports venues provide critical revenue for public safety and community services. And they support tens of thousands of working families and small businesses.

With recovery underway and more than \$10 billion in new investment planned, guiding Anaheim's new Golden Age is one of my top priorities.

Not only will it grow Anaheim as a place loved by so many, it will also help us serve our community for decades to come.

City of Brea

1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-76001 • ci.brea.ca.us

Rebuilding. Reconnecting. Revitalizing.



Steven Vargas
Mayor

Mayor Steven Vargas was elected to the Brea City Council in November 2014 and re-elected in 2018. He also previously served on the city council from 1998-2002. As part of his city council assignments, Mayor Vargas is a member of the City's Development Committee, a member of the League of California Cities, Transportation, Public Works, and Communications Policy Committee, an alternate on the Orange County Sanitation District, as well as the Investment Advisory Committee. He is a proud member of the Brea community where he has lived since 1989.

As part of his year as mayor, Mayor Vargas has focused on Rebuilding, Reconnecting, and Revitalizing the City as it recovers from the effects of the pandemic. The City has a strong economic development strategy that is designed to ensure a well-balanced, economically viable community. Brea is "rebuilding" by expanding its diverse housing, retail centers, beautiful parks, and open spaces. The community is once again "reconnecting" by coming together as places reopen, from the Brea Art Gallery and the Curtis Theatre, to the Brea Community Center, and various outdoor dining opportunities. Brea's always been proud of having one of the nation's top sculpture collections, along with the Brea Mall which draws regional shoppers. Mayor Vargas has also focused on "revitalizing" relationships throughout the City by fostering trust in government through Brea's continued responsiveness to local and regional issues. Brea is a family and business-friendly community and welcomes all to stop by and visit. Mayor Vargas loves saying he is "always available to help". Mayor Steven Vargas (714) 306-4523.

City of Buena Park

6650 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90622 • 714/562-3500 • buenapark.com

Civility. Science. Service



Connor Traut
Mayor

Welcome back to Buena Park, SoCal's Fun City! Whether you're spending the day with your family at Knott's Berry Farm, grabbing a bite at Porto's Bakery, or trying a new drink at The Cauldron, our inclusive and welcoming city has something for everyone. Buena Park is roaring back, and it is not by accident. This recovery is rooted in the dedication of our healthcare workers, city staff, and resilient residents.

Our city continues to prioritize public health, taking swift action to combat physical and mental impacts from this pandemic. We continue to support working families – more childcare, hazard pay for frontline workers, equitable utility and rental assistance, and local hire on construction projects. We continue to adapt and innovate – deploy social workers to non-emergency homeless and mental health response, limit fees food delivery apps can charge so that food is affordable and local restaurants remain open, and sustainability efforts to make our air cleaner, energy greener, and water clearer.

As Mayor, I am grateful to serve with a City Council who believe in civility, science, and service. Together, we continue to govern with one objective – to help people.

About Mayor Traut: Connor J. Traut, Esq., was first elected to city council in 2018, by the largest margin of victory in the city's history. In 2020, he became Mayor of Buena Park at the age of 26, youngest in the city's history. He is a former county juvenile justice commissioner and school board president. Mayor Traut and his spouse, a local kindergarten teacher and doctoral candidate, are high school sweethearts, and puppy parents to two goldendoodles.

City of Costa Mesa

77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/754-5000 • costamesaca.gov

We are Better Than Ever



John Stephens
Mayor

What we like to say about Costa Mesa in 2021 is that we are better than ever.

Why is that? We are better than ever because we survived a worldwide pandemic, and we're now stronger and in a better position to meet our challenges.

We are better than ever because:

- We have a collaborative City Council, and an effective, creative City Manager who negotiated eight labor agreements in 30 days during the pandemic.
- Despite the pandemic we were able to increase our reserves and balance our budget. As a result, we earned an AA plus financial rating.
- We addressed homelessness by opening a permanent Bridge Shelter and have found permanent housing for 200 people in the past two years.
- Our business community has survived and thrived, in part because of \$5 million in small business grants provided to over 450 local businesses.
- Our public safety departments have stepped up when we needed them most. Our PD managed numerous peaceful protests and demonstrations with no property damage; our Fire Department has responded to 27 calls for mutual aid on wildfires.
- We opened a new playground and community center this year as part of the largest capital improvement project in the City's 58-year history.
- We are committed to environmental sustainability, and have invested in active transportation improvements, EV charging stations and electric vehicles.
- Our residents are caring and compassionate. Recently, 700 volunteers attended Love Costa Mesa Day, organized by Trellis, a cooperative of faith-based nonprofits.

Costa Mesa is better than ever because we all work together to make it one of the World's best cities.

City of Cypress

5275 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/229-6700 • cypressca.org

Looking Forward to a Bright Future



Jon Peat
Mayor

The City of Cypress is known as the city of progress, and in the past year we have come together as a community to live up to our motto! Even in the midst of a pandemic, Cypress continued to provide first class city services, sustain our residents with life affirming recreation programs, and support our local businesses. I am so grateful for our City employees and community members for their commitment and positive attitude toward every obstacle they faced. I am also proud to be part of a legacy of City Councils whose sound decisions, financial discipline and foresight equipped us to weather the pandemic and take care of our community.

The City Council invested \$1.9 million into helping Cypress businesses survive and recover from the pandemic. Our Recreation and Community Services team embraced new ways of connecting with residents by providing virtual classes and activities, and literally saved lives by distributing over 84,000 meals to our seniors in partnership with Meals on Wheels and many of our local restaurants. We made tremendous progress on a much needed modernization of our Police station that will help keep Cypress one California's safest cities. As well as being set to debut a wonderful new park with two much needed sports fields and fantastic outdoor amenities later this year.

As Mayor of the City of Cypress, I am certain that Cypress will continue to succeed and be a safe, attractive and quality environment in which to live, work and play. Our future is bright!



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City of Fountain Valley

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City of Kindness in 2021 and Beyond



Michael Vo
Mayor

As we wind down 2021 summer time and slowly gear up to normalcy, I would like to share with the Fountain Valley community of my inauguration of Fountain Valley to be the City of Kindness. We have gone through many challenges in the last two years and I am super proud and excited to work and partner with our City Council, Fountain Valley School District, Fountain Valley Rotary, Fountain Valley Community Foundation, Fountain Valley Kiwanis, Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce, and many more community champions in making Fountain Valley, a City of Kindness.

City of Kindness is a growing center of the kind movement. City of Kindness is a coalition of organization working to inspire kindness in our world. The Dalai Lama is a big supporter and many celebrities including the City of Anaheim. Four year ago, the City Manager Rob Houston and I had a private audience with his holiness, the Dalai Lama. He whispered to us about making Fountain Valley, a City of Kindness. To learn more about the City of Kindness, go to <http://cityofkindness.org/> or [Mayor's Corner | The City of Fountain Valley](#).

I would like you, our students, to spread kindness and challenge you to do the million acts of "kindness." Let's do this together and make Fountain Valley, a City of Kindness – "Do Kindness, Teach Kindness, Spread Kindness, Recognize Kindness." We will recognize our community champions who spread kindness at City Council Meetings beginning September 2021. Please visit the City website (www.fountainvalley.org) to complete an online form so we can recognize your family, your neighbor, your business, or anyone in your surroundings as we do a million acts of kindness. Fountain Valley is a City of Kindness!

Let's make Fountain Valley a Nice, Kind Place to Live!

City of Fullerton

303 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/738-6300 • cityoffullerton.com

Proud to Serve the City of Fullerton



Bruce Whitaker
Mayor

As a 33-year resident of Fullerton, with solid support from my wife Linda, I've proudly represented all the residents of Fullerton, our businesses, students and visitors, for the past 11 years on the City Council including three terms as Mayor. These years have often been tumultuous with pressing issues and often difficult choices. It seems as though Fullerton is regularly a "hot corner" regarding societal changes. That might be expected of a city which hosts the largest University in our state's public university system — California State University Fullerton, as well as Fullerton College — the oldest community college in continuous operation in California, as well as Hope International University, their combined enrollment is more than 65,000 students, creating a nearly 50% boost in Fullerton's population during the work week.

Always, water is a huge issue throughout California. I currently serve our city as a Director of the 10-member Orange County Water District board, which appointed me to serve as one of five Commissioners on the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, a three-county effort where I serve as the Vice Chair. In addition, is my role as Convener of the three-county 11 member — OWOW, One Water One Watershed Steering Committee. I also serve Fullerton as an Executive Committee member of the Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency and was appointed by Orange County mayors as Vice Chair of the City Selection Committee for regional board appointments. These posts keep me very busy and are quite complex but also very rewarding.

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City of Garden Grove

11222 Acacia Pkwy., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/741-5000 • ggcity.org

Return to Re: Imagine



Steve Jones
Mayor

There's never been a more perfect place to spark my imagination than Garden Grove. Growing up around so many amazing people, places, and hometown spirit inspired my future direction. After studying abroad, I returned to Garden Grove to complete my post-graduate studies and establish my business career. Soon after, I fulfilled a personal goal to serve as a Garden Grove city council member and later, mayor. Never losing sight of the wonderful Garden Grove experiences that fueled my early imagination, in 2013, I collaborated with City staff to begin a new endeavor, now called Re:Imagine Garden Grove.

The Re:Imagine concept focuses on creating a welcoming sense of "place" in our community, highlighting Garden Grove's unique, charismatic, and at-home atmosphere. From downtown murals, art installations, and colorful, oversized Adirondack chairs; to SteelCraft Garden Grove, an outdoor urban eatery made up of re-purposed shipping containers; as well as bike and walking paths along the historical Pacific Electric Right-of-Way. Also, our popular Open Streets event that closes down city streets to make way for thousands of pedestrians and bicyclists. Entering the ninth year of this vision, I hope to continue re-inventing our community while preserving our historical roots, celebrating our vibrant diversity, supporting our small businesses, and providing the highest level of City services possible.

The challenges of COVID-19 have been beyond anyone's imagination, yet Garden Grove continues to show profound strength, resiliency, unity, and an unending spirit that will continue to drive our future dreams.

City of Huntington Beach

155 Fifth St., Ste. 111, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/969-3492 • surfcityusa.com

Welcome to Surf City!



Kim Carr
Mayor

I am so proud and fortunate to represent Huntington Beach. We pride ourselves as being "OneHB" – a community that is inclusive, compassionate, and diverse. Serving the fourth largest city in Orange County, we pride ourselves on welcoming residents and guests from near and far to enjoy our eight miles of uninterrupted beach.

Being a coastal city has its advantages as we offer year-round, family-friendly events throughout the year. We just hosted the 5th Annual Pacific Airshow featuring three jet teams from North America! It was an incredible sight to see the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the Canadian Forces Snowbirds – only the second time in history that all three teams were in the same show! In addition, we hosted the US Open of Surfing – crowning new, young champions that are making names for themselves - Caity Simmers and Griffin Colapinto.

This fall is packed with events as well! Our Huntington Beach Police Foundation's "Cars n Copters on the Beach" takes place on Sunday, October 17 with exotic cars and helicopters on display. In addition, Oktoberfest runs through the end of October at Old World Village. Old World has been a staple in our community for more than 50 years! Come with the family to eat authentic German food and enjoy lots of entertainment! Lastly, on October 30 join us for Corgi Beach Day – hundreds of Corgi dogs in costume will be parading around Dog Beach.

Huntington Beach is truly a unique and special City. I welcome you to come to the beach with your friends and family to enjoy everything we have to offer in Surf City!

City of Irvine

1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92606 • 949/724-6000 • cityofirvine.org

Celebrating 50 Years and Looking Ahead



Farran N. Khan
Mayor

This year, the City of Irvine commemorates 50 years of incorporation, and despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have much to celebrate.

Irvine is the 3rd largest city in Orange County, the 14th largest city in California, and continues to be recognized as one of the safest cities in America, according to FBI data, and as one of the best places to raise a family in the United States, thanks to outstanding schools and top-ranked parks and open space.

Our pursuit of excellence is reflected in the City's mission to create and maintain a community where people can live, work, and play in an environment that is safe, vibrant, and aesthetically pleasing.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been committed to protecting the health and well-being of our community by providing ongoing COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, issuing nearly \$20 million in rental and business assistance, and seeking new and innovative ways to serve our community through our Digital City Hall.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on sustainability. We are the first City in Orange County to set a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and we are working to bring more renewable energy to Irvine through the Orange County Power Authority.

We also remain committed to celebrating our rich cultural populace through our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion resolution and ad hoc committee, which focuses on the needs of our community and continued goals of inclusion.

As we reflect on how far we have come over the past 50 years, we can be excited about what lies ahead for this wonderful community.

Engage in the Planning and Development of Your Great Park

Public Input

The City of Irvine invites you to play an active role in helping to plan and develop Great Park. We welcome your feedback and ideas to help us continue to develop a premier destination of unparalleled quality for all to enjoy.

Help guide the way by learning, participating, and staying involved in the following ways:

LEARN

Learn about Great Park activities and amenities, and sign up for the Great Park newsletter at

YourGreatPark.org

PARTICIPATE

View and participate in Great Park Board meetings the 4th Tuesday of each month at

cityofirvine.org

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REACH OUT

We value your input and want to hear from you!

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City of La Habra

110 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/383-4000 • lahabracity.com

A Caring Community



Rose Espinoza
Mayor

Known far and wide as “A Caring Community,” La Habra and its 63,000 residents have a long history of public service and community events. Local service organizations, such as the La Habra Host Lions Club and the La Habra Collaborative, host events throughout the year, raising funds to support programs that assist seniors, children, and families in need. Likewise, our partners at St. Jude Medical Center and Friends of Family Health Center provide community health programs that spearhead our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and which also emphasize healthy living choices, such as La Habra’s “Move More, Eat Healthy” campaign.

No matter the season, there is always something happening in La Habra. For example, the La Habra Citrus Fair and the La Habra Corn Festival each attract thousands of people to our downtown core, offering an abundance of live entertainment and shopping options that engender “miles of smiles.” Our “Fourth of July Spectacular” is the highlight of the summer season and provides La Habrans an opportunity to reflect upon our nation’s history and shared ideals. And certainly, no holiday season would be complete without the La Habra Tamale Festival, a celebration of family and friendship, and of course, delicious homemade tamales.

Not a day goes by without at least one event in La Habra meant to encourage a greater sense of community, whether it be a free concert or “movie in the park,” a youth sport event, or a recognition event for local volunteers. Visit us today and experience for yourself all that La Habra has to offer. All are welcome!

Rose Espinoza has been recognized nationally for a life devoted to volunteerism and service to community, including for the founding of “Rosie’s Garage,” an afterschool program that seeks to break generational poverty through education and academic achievement. She has served on the La Habra City Council since 2000, including service as Mayor five times.

City of Laguna Beach

505 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, CA 92651 • 949/497-3311 • lagunabeachcity.net

A City with Distinct Character



Bob Whalen
Mayor

Moving to the City of Laguna Beach in 1984 was an easy decision for my wife and me. Good schools and a thriving artist community set in a town with such distinct character, beautiful beaches and kind, genuine people won us over. We fell in love with Laguna Beach and have never left.

Since 2012 I have had the privilege to serve the residents of Laguna Beach as a City Councilmember and am currently serving my fourth term as Mayor. With an estimated 6.5 million annual visitors and nearly 8 miles of coastline, public safety is vital and our Police Department, Fire Department and Marine Safety Department provide outstanding protection and service. With nearly 90 percent of our City in the highest risk fire zone, fire safety is one of our highest priorities. The City Council has adopted a comprehensive wildfire safety plan and we are constantly working to improve our preparedness measures, but there is still more to be done.

Our small businesses, restaurants, hotels and arts organizations all contribute to making the Laguna Beach economy strong. Thriving new outdoor dining areas throughout the City have infused new energy into Downtown and beyond. Unique shops and restaurants are popping up in North Laguna and our HIP District. The resiliency and determination of our residents, businesses, festivals, and City staff to overcome the pandemic’s challenges continues to amaze me.

I am proud to share that the City continues to be a leader in environmental protection with our Marine Protection Zone and now as a Plastic-Free City through our new Neighborhood & Environmental Protection Plan. Our residents, City Council and City staff join me in welcoming you to Laguna Beach!

City of La Palma

7822 Walker St. La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/690-3300 • cityoflapalma.org

A Strong Sense of Community



Nitesh Patel
Mayor

Nitesh Patel is a hardworking serial entrepreneur, Californian native who lives in Orange County and is the Mayor of City of La Palma. Inspired by his father’s business acumen, Nitesh attended Cal Poly Pomona to pursue a Business degree with a concentration in marketing. Right out of college Nitesh interned in Washington DC. While attending law school Nitesh ran a successful mortgage business and went on to graduate from Abraham Lincoln Law School earning a Juris Doctorate (JD) and completed his Masters in Law (LL.M.) in International and Domestic Tax from Thomas Jefferson School of Law.

Nitesh wears multiple hats and is the Founder and CEO of an online university American International School of Law (AISOL). In addition to building AISOL, Nitesh is a Developer, and has built a strong real estate portfolio consisting of multi-family and commercial properties. Armed with a vision of giving back to the community in 2008, Nitesh founded Each One Teach One (Eoto) an approved 501c (3) and where Nitesh serves as Executive Director. EOTO is based on the belief that helping to educate children and by providing them with the basic necessities is key to the empowerment of children living in poverty. In addition, to serving families through his nonprofit, Nitesh serves as an advisory board member for Salvation Army and Boys & Girls Club.

Ranked four times by *Money Magazine* as one of America’s Best Places to Live, La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of 15,581 residents. La Palma is a well-balanced city, which prides itself on a responsive municipal government and a strong sense of community. With one of the lowest crime rates in Orange County, La Palma is where residents can rest easy and enjoy hometown living.

City of Laguna Hills

24035 El Toro Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/707-2600 • <https://cityoflosalamitos.org>

Focused on Creative Solutions



Erica Pezold
Mayor

Erica Pezold is currently serving as the Mayor of Laguna Hills and has served on the City Council for three years thus far. As a servant to the people, Mayor Pezold works hard to listen to all constituents to execute their will. One of Mayor Pezold’s first accomplishments was the Campaign Finance Law, which she co-authored. Mayor Pezold has a history of supporting all local businesses. She organized the first business outreach meeting, which connected businesses and the City; she created the ShopDineEnjoy Laguna Hills campaign and helped the Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce develop events such as the Holiday Light Extravaganza. As a strong supporter of public safety, Mayor Pezold focuses meetings on improving the safety of the City.

Laguna Hills’ most significant challenges are the closure of the Laguna Hills Mall, which reduced City revenue by approximately ten percent, and revenue losses from COVID-19.

Mayor Pezold focused on creative solutions to better the City during this time. Some of the programs she created, among other things, are:

- The Rooted Campaign, a program where volunteers plant various plants to improve the City aesthetically.
- Plant Donation program allows residents to donate funds for plants.
- Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRS), with the loss of two officers and an increase in crime, the ALPRS is a force multiplier that helps deter crime, solve cases, and assist authorities in many other ways.

Mayor Pezold appreciates the opportunity to serve the people and hopes to continue to do so for years to come.

City of Laguna Niguel

30111 Crown Valley Pkwy., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 • 949/362-4300 • cityoflagunaniguel.org

Proud to Serve Laguna Niguel



Fred Minagar
Mayor

Mayor Fred Minagar and his wife, Julie, moved to Orange County from New York City in 1989 and have been residents of Laguna Niguel for over 25 years. They have raised their two children in Laguna Niguel and are proud to call the beautiful City of Laguna Niguel their home.

Mayor Minagar has served the City of Laguna Niguel for nearly three decades. Following 18 years of volunteer service on the City's Planning Commission and the Traffic & Transportation Commission, he was elected to the Laguna Niguel City Council in November 2014 and re-elected in 2018. Mayor Minagar served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2016 and 2019 and previously served as Mayor in 2017. Then in December 2020, Mayor Minagar was selected by the unanimous vote of his City Council colleagues to serve as the City of Laguna Niguel's Mayor for the 2021 term.

Additionally, Mayor Minagar has over 35 years of engineering and planning experience. In 1993, he launched his private engineering and planning consulting firm, Minagar & Associates, Inc., building it from a start-up consultancy to a nationally recognized firm.

Mayor Minagar's dedication lies in his family and in the city he loves to call home. He will tell you that serving Laguna Niguel is a great honor and that every decision he makes as an elected official takes into account what is best for the Laguna Niguel community.

City of Lake Forest

100 Civic Center Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/461-3400 • lakeforestca.gov

Let Us Strive to Make a Difference



Scott Voigts
Mayor

The Lake Forest City Council is led by a "soccer dad". Mayor Scott Voigts, a resident of Lake Forest since 1978, grew up in the community and spent much of his time volunteering for his daughter's school and soccer team. In fact, Scott and his wife, Stephanie, have stayed in the community they grew up in because they believed it was the perfect place to raise a family. Scott and Stephanie have been happily married for 32 years and have a 19-year-old daughter.

Scott was first elected to the Lake Forest City Council in 2010 and was re-elected in 2014 and 2018. He has served as Mayor several times. During his time as Mayor in 2021, the City had many accomplishments. Some highlights are:

- Civic Center campus, paid for with development fees, not tax dollars, is the American Public Works Association "National Project of the Year"
 - New Lake Forest TV Channel 851 to increase City transparency and keep residents informed during emergencies
 - Traffic signals upgraded, adding ADA buttons, countdown pedestrian indicators and emergency vehicle preemption systems
 - City response to Bond and Silverado Fires with a 24-hour Emergency Operations Center
 - During the pandemic, allocated \$862,000 in CARES-CV monies for Public Services, Business Grants and Public Facilities assisting residents and businesses impacted by COVID-19
 - Budget reductions helped the City end with \$3.5 million surplus at year-end
- Scott is active in his church, O.C. Chamber of Commerce, and the O.C. Central Committee. In addition, Scott has served on the California League of Cities Revenue & Tax Committee and the TCA Toll Operations Committee since 2010. Scott's faith is a driving force behind his passion to serve his community.

City of Laguna Woods

24264 El Toro Rd., Laguna Woods, CA 92637 • 949/639-0500 • cityoflagunawoods.org

A Pleasure to Serve



Shari L. Horne
Mayor

The City of Laguna Woods is a general law city with a Council-Manager form of government, meaning that it operates within the parameters of California municipal law with an elected City Council as its legislative body. The City Council appoints and supervises a professional City Manager who is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the City and implementation of the City Council's ordinances, regulations, and policy direction. The City Council also appoints a City Attorney to serve as the City's legal counsel.

The five members of the City Council are residents of Laguna Woods who are elected by registered voters to four-year terms. Elections occur "at-large" (citywide) in even-numbered years with two and then three members of the City Council elected at subsequent elections. All five offices are nonpartisan.

The City Council appoints a Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem from amongst its membership to preside over City Council meetings, execute certain legal instruments and authorizations, and attend to various representative and ceremonial matters. The Mayor Pro Tem serves as the Mayor in their absence.

I was appointed in 2014 and my third term ends in 2024. It is a pleasure to serve the City of Laguna Woods.

My husband, Hal, and I moved here in 2005. I am a "second generation" Laguna Woods Village resident in the age-restricted gated community which forms the majority of the City's land area. We have over 1300 golf carts which are also used as primary vehicles inside the City and an active political community.

We've been active in recycling, water conservation, waste hauling, security and homeless issues. Additionally I serve as an Assemblywoman in the California Senior Legislature where senior-related issues and solutions are introduced.

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City of Los Alamitos

3191 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/431-3538 • cityoflosalamitos.org

A Secure Future



Mark A. Chirco
Mayor

2020 and 2021 brought tremendous challenges and opportunities for Los Alamitos. The pandemic resulted in economic, societal, and healthcare challenges for many. We are thankful to those who have helped navigate these challenges including heroes in healthcare, our police department, OC Fire Authority, teachers and staff in the Los Alamitos School District, our local businesses, city employees, and many more.

Thanks to the foresight of our residents, Los Alamitos is on a more secure financial footing with passage of Measure Y after many years of deep unsustainable cuts. As a result, we have been able to approve fully staffing our police department and avoid drastic cuts, ensuring public safety. We have been able to approve ambitious public works projects to perform needed repairs to our infrastructure, including our streets and parks. We are also improving city operations to be more responsive to our residents. Despite the pandemic and a lean staff, our recreation department continued to create award winning community events like Weekend of Art, Drive Up Film and Food Fest, Run Los Al, Serve Los Al, 4th of July Fireworks at the JFTB, and many more.

We held town halls to address COVID-19 with our neighboring cities and legislators and are proud to report one of the highest vaccination rates in Orange County. We also addressed strategic planning for the future of Los Alamitos including encouraging economic development to ensure Los Alamitos remains the vibrant, successful city it is today. Although many challenges remain, we are confident that Los Alamitos has a secure and bright future.

City of Mission Viejo

200 Civic Center, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/470-3000 • cityofmissionviejo.org

Enhancing Our Quality of Life



Trish Kelley
Mayor

A longtime, passionate and proactive leader, Trish Kelley began her life of public service when first elected to the Mission Viejo City Council in 2002. Currently serving as Mayor, Trish also served as Mayor in 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2014. Trish believes that quality of life, public safety, economic development, and transportation are the primary concerns of residents and works hard to enhance those areas.

Throughout the years, Trish has successfully promoted many programs and improvements to enhance the quality of life in Mission Viejo. She has advanced park and recreation center renovations and supported the popular Kids' Factory after-school program at our schools. In 2003, Trish led the City Council to establish Mission Viejo as a City of Character. She helped develop a city-wide character program, which focuses on a different character quality each month. She wrote the curriculum, which is provided to the City's 25 schools, City facilities, and featured on the City's website. The program has received awards at the state and national levels.

Trish's Mission Viejo residency began in 1977 when her husband Jack served as a pilot at the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro. Since then, she has been an active community volunteer lending her time to church, youth sports, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, Relay for Life, the Saddleback College Foundation and she served as PTA President at three different schools. Trish and Jack have three grown children and nine young grandchildren. Trish continues to understand, embrace and support children's issues through her involvement with her grandchildren's activities, staying in touch with our Mission Viejo school principals and visiting our schools.

City of Newport Beach

100 Civic Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/644-3309 • newportbeachca.gov

Proud to Serve My Community



Brad Avery
Mayor

Mayor Brad Avery has served his community on the Newport Beach City Council since 2016, when he was elected to represent District 2. He was reelected to the Council in 2020, and was elected by his Council colleagues to serve as mayor in 2021, for a one-year term.

Mayor Avery has lived in Newport Beach since 1969 and grew up sailing on the harbor. After graduating from Newport Harbor High at 17, he spent three years as a professional sailor, crossing the Atlantic several times, and cruising in the Caribbean and Mediterranean. For nearly three decades prior to retirement, he led the community boating program at Orange Coast College.

Prior to his election to City Council, Mayor Avery served on the City's Harbor Commission for five years. He currently serves on the City's Finance Committee and on the OC Sanitation District Board of Directors. His other civic and community work includes the Sherman Gardens Foundation, the Oasis Senior Center Board of Advocates., the City's Water Quality and Tidelands Committee, and the Ad Hoc Homeless Committee.

One of Avery's priorities as a mayor and council member is to maintain and strengthen the positive working relationship between the City and Newport Beach's educational institutions, such as the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. The City and District have worked collaboratively on traffic improvements, bike and pedestrian safety, and other key issues.

Mayor Avery is particularly proud of the City's Junior Lifeguard program, which helps thousands of young people develop water safety skills, confidence and leadership abilities every summer. He is also an advocate for the Newport Beach Public Library's youth programs, which provide assistance and resources to help students succeed in school and thrive in their chosen careers.



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City of Orange

300 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/744-2225 • cityoforange.org

Orange: Family, Community, and History



Mark A. Murphy
Mayor

In the City of Orange, family, community, and history always come first. Times may come and go, but these values remain our bedrock. Even now, faced with an unprecedented global health crisis, we keep our eyes on the future, while we keep our past firmly in mind to ground us.

Certainly, the last few years were a time of great accomplishment here in Orange. In 2018, our Old Towne Plaza, over 130-years old and the heart of our Historic District, was named a “Great Place in America” by the American Planning Association. With this declaration, Orange joined New York and San Francisco as a public space of significance. In 2019, Old Towne West Parking Structure opened to the public after 10 years in planning, allowing us to continue welcoming the ever-growing number of visitors to our City. In 2020, another long-planned project, the Orange Fire Department Fire Station 1 and Fire Headquarters broke ground and began construction. When finished, the facility will continue to keep our Public Safety services ready to protect us well into the 21st Century.

As we continue to face the effects of the global pandemic on Orange, we have never lost sight of its extended effects on our community and our families. We were one of the first cities in the County to welcome the public back to receive in-person services, only two months after the first shutdown. In an effort to keep people working and our business community alive, Orange offered grants to the city’s small businesses, enabling them to remain open and retain employees. In July, 2020, the City launched the Orange Plaza Paseo, allowing restaurants and businesses to expand into the street for outdoor dining and shopping, and turning two streets of the City’s downtown area into a walkable, pedestrian friendly space.

As long as we remember our past, protect our families, and honor our community, there is no challenge we cannot face today, or in the next 130 years.

City of Placentia

401 E. Chapman Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/993-8117 • placentia.org

On An Upward Trajectory



Craig S. Green
Mayor

The City of Placentia consists of 6.7 square miles and serves a population of 52,000. Mayor Craig S. Green was elected to the Placentia City Council in 2014, and prior to this, he served as the City Treasurer for four years. Placentia is on an upward trajectory, and the City’s economic outlook looks promising despite challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City has seen significant progress with many development initiatives in recent years. A milestone development project for Mayor Green was the Placentia Veterans Village, which recently celebrated its first anniversary. Being a Navy Veteran himself, Mayor Green was a champion for the Placentia Veterans Village,

a first-of-its-kind permanent supportive housing development for homeless or disabled military veterans. In response to the elimination of redevelopment agencies, the City Council established the Placentia Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD). The EIFD is the first in California to involve a partnership between a City and County for improved public infrastructure that will benefit the construction of a new Metrolink Station, Old Town Placentia, and the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) District near the 57 and 91 freeways. The new TOD district has presented significant development opportunities. Thus far, the City Council approved a 215-unit development that opened in July of this year, a 418-unit mixed-use development that broke ground in February of this year, and an agreement for a 189-unit mixed-use development in May of this year. Additional noteworthy developments include a Penske Audi dealership which broke ground in February of this year, and a Springhill Suites by Marriott hotel, which opened in June of this year.



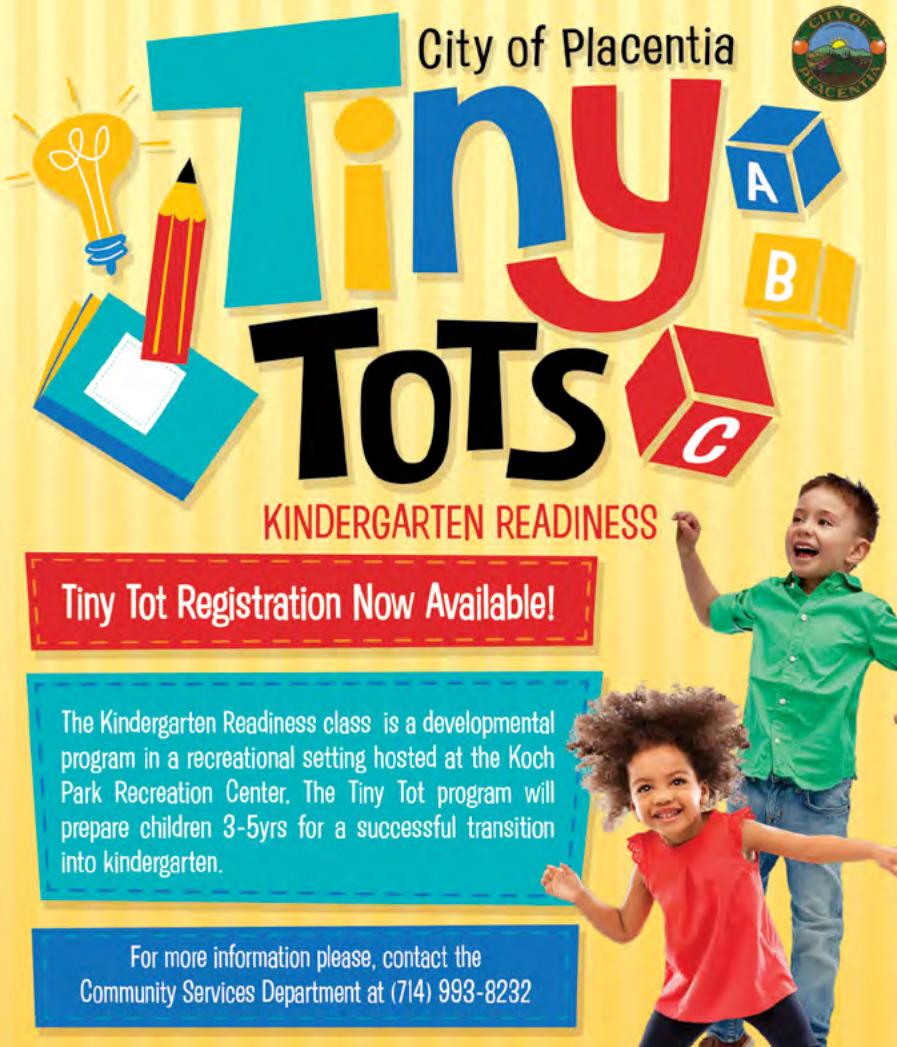
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City of Placentia

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City of Rancho Santa Margarita

22112 El Paseo, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/635-1800 • cityofrsm.org

A Strong City with a Bright Future



L. Anthony Beall
Mayor

Rancho Santa Margarita became Orange County's 33rd City and the first City of the new millennium on January 1, 2000. Twenty years later, Rancho Santa Margarita (RSM) is a prosperous city of 50,000 residents who enjoy several vibrant retail centers and a thriving business park. City Council policy and foresight, combined with the unwavering commitment to honor master planner Richard Reese's original vision, ensure a City surrounded by lush parks, walkable neighborhoods, and preserved open space.

Master planning began in 1979 when the Rancho Mission Viejo Company hired visionary planner Richard Reese. Reese's vision was a 5,000 acre "urban lifestyle village" in an open space setting – a plan for a balanced mix of homes with commercial, recreational, and business park uses established so residents would have everything they need in one community. Recent projects include citywide enhanced street lighting/median improvements and the beautiful monument sign. Currently, we are constructing a new kid's Splash Pad in Central Park.

Rancho Santa Margarita is home to innovative and nationally recognized companies, award-winning public schools, and prominent private schools. Economic success is evident in RSM with access to high-end goods and services. These amenities, as well as one of the lowest crime rates in the nation, makes Rancho Santa Margarita a desirable home for families and businesses alike. The FBI has ranked RSM as the #1 safest city in Orange County for over ten years. In addition, RSM is financially strong, with a balanced budget and over \$20 million in reserves.

I'm proud to have served as the Mayor of this great City – and all we've accomplished. Thanks to years of hard work, our City is strong and its future bright.

City of San Clemente

910 Calle Negocio, San Clemente, CA 92673 • 949/361-8200 • san-clemente.org

Keeping Tradition Alive



Kathleen Ward
Mayor

I have proudly served the residents of San Clemente since 2012. I was appointed to the planning commission and then elected to city council in 2014. I am currently serving my second term as mayor.

San Clemente is a special town. Our city dates back to 1928, founded by Ole Hanson, the former Mayor of Seattle, who designed our city as a place where people could live more pleasantly than anywhere else. We strive to keep that intention alive as our city turns 100 years old in 2028.

There truly is so much more to serving on the council than I imagined. I have been to Washington, DC, to lobby for regulation of sober living homes, dealt with the exploding vacation rental industry, and had to fight to try to save our hospital and ER. I literally had to fight for six years to protect my city from a toll road going through it. I couldn't have done that without my residents, who truly make serving this city a remarkable experience.

We have proud residents who are involved in their government and volunteer to make our city a great place to live, work and play. We have great surf, beautiful beaches, a wooden pier and a beloved municipal golf course.

I have enjoyed my second term as Mayor of our great city and it has been a rewarding year to work with my fellow mayors in Orange County on all issues affecting our cities.



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City of San Juan Capistrano

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Destination City with a Small Town Feel



John Taylor
Mayor

Welcome to San Juan Capistrano, the birthplace of Orange County. It is the honor of my life to serve the residents of our unique city as your Mayor in 2021.

San Juan Capistrano is very fortunate to have retained that small town feel that has become the brand of our city. With a century old train station, the beautiful Mission San Juan Capistrano, the charming Los Rios Historic District and fabulous restaurants and drinking establishments like the Swallows Inn, it has become the destination for foodies and those visitors looking for an experience.

Local government in San Juan Capistrano, though it has a small town feel is more like a large city. We currently operate and manage our own water district with state of the art water treatment facilities. We have the largest equestrian community around, making us "The Equestrian Capital of the West Coast." From a championship Rodeo to Olympic silver medalist English riders, we have it all.

We also have a wonderfully diverse community and are the home of the best schools, public and private in Southern California. We have dedicated 40% of our community as open space. Twice our citizens voted to tax themselves, thirty million dollars each time to purchase open space that would have otherwise been developed and dedicate it to open space.

All of these unique amenities require experience and determination to manage and preserve and I am proud to lead my colleagues, Troy Bourne, Sergio Farias, Howard Hart and Derek Reeves as Mayor.

City of Santa Ana

20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701 • 714/647-5400 • santa-ana.org

Leading the Way



Vicente Sarmiento
Mayor

Mayor Vicente Sarmiento is proud to serve the community of Santa Ana, which is the second-largest city in Orange County with a population of 310,227. It is one of the oldest cities in the county, founded over 150 years ago, and serves as the County seat. Santa Ana has a vibrant downtown, arts scene, diverse local restaurants and shops, many active neighborhoods, and business and manufacturing sector, including a Fortune 500 company.

Mayor Sarmiento and his family have lived in and around Santa Ana since 1965 and he now lives in a 1929 historic home in the Saddleback View neighborhood, three blocks from where he grew up. He and his wife Eva, also an attorney, are the principal owners of a law practice in Santa Ana. They have three children whom they hope will learn the value of public service and contributing to their community.

Mayor Sarmiento began serving on the Santa Ana City Council in 2007 and served in other appointed positions, including as president of the Orange County Water District Board of Directors. He was elected mayor of Santa Ana in November 2020, making him the first person of Bolivian descent to serve as mayor of a major city in the United States. Mayor Sarmiento is leading the Santa Ana community through a transformational period as the City plans for a post-pandemic future to improve access to fair housing, health care, education and youth programs. Santa Ana already leads Orange County in creating new affordable housing and providing services and shelter for the homeless. The City is finding new and innovative ways to deliver services to residents every day.

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City of Seal Beach

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A Pleasure to Serve



Joe Kalmick
Mayor

Hi there, my name is Joe Kalmick and I am currently Mayor of the City of Seal Beach. Each year our five-member City Council selects one of us to be the mayor for the following year. I began my term January of this year.

The mayor has several roles. As mayor I conduct the City Council meeting and announce each item on the agenda. The mayor is usually the public face of the City Council at various events that take place in the city. In addition, I participate in bi-weekly internet Zoom meetings with the other Orange County mayors to discuss state and county issues. I also attend monthly meetings with our District 2 County Supervisor Katrina Foley and the mayors of the District 2 cities. We are kept up to date on issues and opportunities for our cities, such as grants that are available.

And in addition to the specific duties of the mayor, as a council member I sit on various boards that are within Orange County as well as the Southern California region. I represent our city on the Orange County Fire Authority Board, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority, the Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, In my capacity as mayor, I was elected by a council of mayors to SCAG, the Southern California Association of Governments regional council, which is a metropolitan planning organization encompassing six counties and 191 cities.

My tenure as the Mayor of our city has been an interesting and enjoyable experience. I have learned a great deal more about our local and regional government agencies, as well as our responsibilities as a city to the region. And I've also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with other mayors from all over Orange County.

City of Stanton

7800 Katella Ave., Stanton, CA 90680 • 714/379-9222 • ci.stanton.ca.us

Pride and Forward Vision



David J. Shawver
Mayor

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the community of Stanton for the past 33 years. I have been married to my wife Jennifer for 44 years while living in Stanton where I raised my family of five along with our six grandchildren.

During this time, with the help of my fellow City Council Members, we were able to completely transform our town into a community of "Pride and Forward Vision." Today Stanton is totally different than the way it used to be. We have new business and residential centers throughout our town, and it is only the beginning.

My family and I are very active in our local church and at our local schools. This gave me an opportunity to volunteer with many local nonprofits and other community organizations.

I served as President of the Cypress College Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Greater Stanton while also volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, the Stanton Community Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club of Stanton, the Youth Assistance Foundation, Orange County Inter-Faith Council, St. Polycarp Church, and many other worthwhile groups.

I currently represent the City of Stanton and the people of Orange County by serving as Chairman of the Orange County Fire Authority, President of the Ground Water Replenishment System, and on the Boards of the Public Cable Television Authority, Orange County Parks Commission, Orange County Waste and Recycling Commission, Orange County Sanitation District, and President of the Orange County City Select Committee. In addition, I serve on the Orange County Council of Governments, Association of Orange County Cities, and the Orange County League of Cities.

These opportunities provide me the resources to assist all residents of Orange County in providing the services they need. If I can help anyone, please contact me at dshawver1@att.net. Thank you for my opportunity to serve.

City of Tustin

300 Centennial Wy., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/573-3000 • tustinca.org

Small Town Feel – Big City Amenities



Letitia Clark
Mayor

Known as the City of Trees, Tustin has a small town feel with big city amenities and a great sense of community. Like myself, I have found that people who grew up here and moved away, often return to raise their families.

Along with Tustin's extensive park system of passive and active parks, Tustin has a diverse housing stock of brand-new developments in Tustin Legacy, newer suburban developments in Tustin Ranch, and historic housing in Old Town.

With events such as Tustin Tiller Days, the Chili Cook-Off, Movies and Concerts in the Park, to shopping at our Certified Farmer's Market and popular destinations such as the District at Tustin Legacy, the Tustin Market Place, and Tustin Auto Center, it's easy to see why many choose to live, work and play in Tustin.

Our city combines history and innovation; business and open space; young minds with bold ideas; and a community that celebrates everyday moments and quality experiences. Our neighborhoods connect people to each other and to new opportunities.

As we move toward our future, we will continue to recognize our heritage — the orange groves that bounded our city, the important role Tustin played in WWII, the diversity of people in our neighborhoods, excellent shopping, and all the unique characteristics that make Tustin what it is today.

I'm honored to preside this year over my hometown, Tustin, a welcoming place to live, work and play.

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City of Villa Park

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Hidden Jewel of Orange County



Crystal Miles
Mayor

Known as the Hidden Jewel of Orange County, Villa Park is home to almost 7,000 residents and encompasses 2.1 square miles in the heart of OC. A small-Town Center with shopping, dining, professional services and amenities and our own Villa Park City Hall and Villa Park Library. We love our Law Enforcement, City Staff, and our Orange County Fire Authority. Surrounded almost entirely by the City of Orange, we were incorporated in 1962 as the 24th city in Orange County and have kept our lush landscapes, rolling hills, equestrian and walking trails since the time of the Villa Park Orchards back in 1912. We pride ourselves in our low crime rate, outreach programs, balanced budget, and small, tight-knit community.

This past year I have had the honor and privilege of serving our residents as Mayor of Villa Park and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I pride myself in my dedication, persistence, integrity, and honesty towards the endeavors I undertake and thank the residents for entrusting me. 2021 has brought challenges to a small city like ours however I am proud to say Villa Park met those challenges. As Mayor this year I implemented a monthly Coffee with the Mayor. This allowed me and our City Manager to be accessible to residents, receive their input, and/or answer questions or address concerns. I created a commemorative pin to recognize our Veterans residing in the boundaries of Villa Park and just recently Villa Park disbursed Emergency Preparedness Meal Kits to residents who wanted them.

I encourage you to visit Villa Park and see for yourself the beauty of The Hidden Jewel and our community.

City of Westminster

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311 • westminster-ca.gov

Westminster: Challenge and Opportunity



Tri Ta
Mayor

More than a year and a half so far into the pandemic era, Westminster has faced the same challenges, if not more, as many other cities have faced. Such challenges include providing COVID-19 tests and vaccines to the elderly, supporting local businesses, as much as possible, to survive through these difficult times, and ensuring the safety and wellness of our residents. Moreover, the City had to maintain quality city services to everyone. With the strong commitment from the City Council and staff, Westminster has provided good policies to support our businesses and community to overcome daily obstacles. Through innovation and dedication, Westminster has operated with a balanced budget in the 2020-21 Fiscal Year that just ended, and just adopted the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year budget.

On the other hand, Westminster also sees many opportunities to grow economically through anticipated and increased “Economic Development” efforts and activities, and to become a destination for tourism. The Bolsa Row Hotel Project that the City Council approved a few years ago has provided more job opportunities, and is expected to play an important role in attracting tourists while promoting shopping and dining in Little Saigon.

In order to meet the housing needs for our seniors and low income families, Westminster has partnered with many other governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to build several housing projects such as Della Rosa, Westminster Crossing, etc.

I am always proud to serve Westminster residents and its business community, “A City of Progress, Built on Pride.” I believe Westminster will continue to make good progress in many years to come.

City of Yorba Linda

4845 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/961-7100 • yorbalindaca.gov

The Land of Gracious Living



Peggy Huang
Mayor

When my family and I left Taiwan seeking our American dreams, we knew that hard work and determination would help us find a new home in the land of opportunity. That experience taught me at an early age that your community profoundly impacts your quality of life and that I wanted to spend my life in public service. As a Deputy Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Appeals, Trial, and Writs section, I spend my day advocating for ways to improve communities and ensuring everyone has a chance to achieve their American dream.

Nowhere does that dream feel more real to me than in my home of the last two decades, Yorba Linda, where I serve as the Mayor. Our City’s motto, “the Land of Gracious Living,” sometimes feels like an understatement considering the amazing amenities available to the community.

With over 100 miles of trails, 200 acres of parkland, the Nixon Presidential Library, beautiful and distinct neighborhoods, award-winning schools, and fantastic shopping and dining opportunities, Yorba Linda is a place where the future effortlessly mixes with the past, resulting in endless possibilities.

We have invested heavily in creating exceptional gathering spaces, such as our brand new, state-of-the-art Public Library and Cultural Arts Center. Additionally, this month, we are breaking ground to transform our Adventure Playground facility into an incredible year-round destination for creative play. Our economic vitality is not only attracting new residents, but is also attracting international and national companies to locate here. Moreover, our long-term economic development plan continues to create an attractive community for both new and existing businesses to thrive, as seen in our revitalized downtown Main Street and new Town Center.

The Yorba Linda community is a place of unmatched civic pride, patriotic character, and rich opportunities — making it easy to live life graciously and making 92886 and 92887 some of the most sought-after zip codes in the county.



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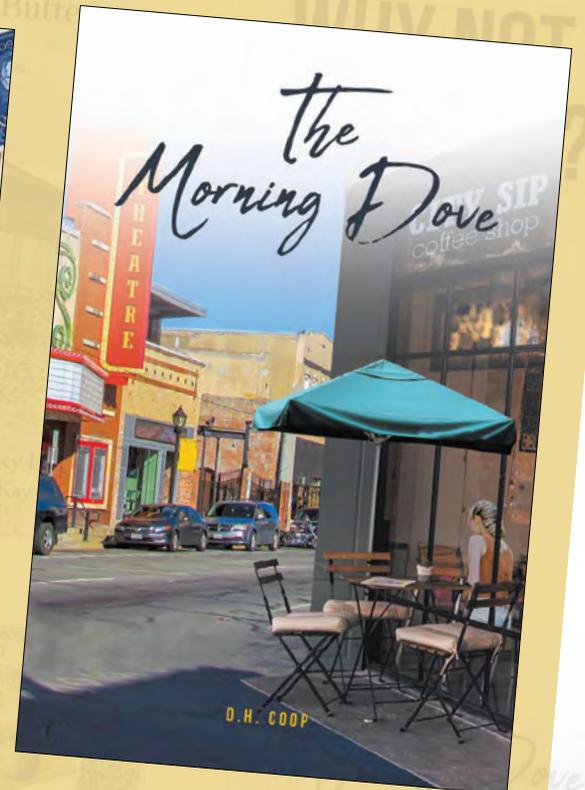
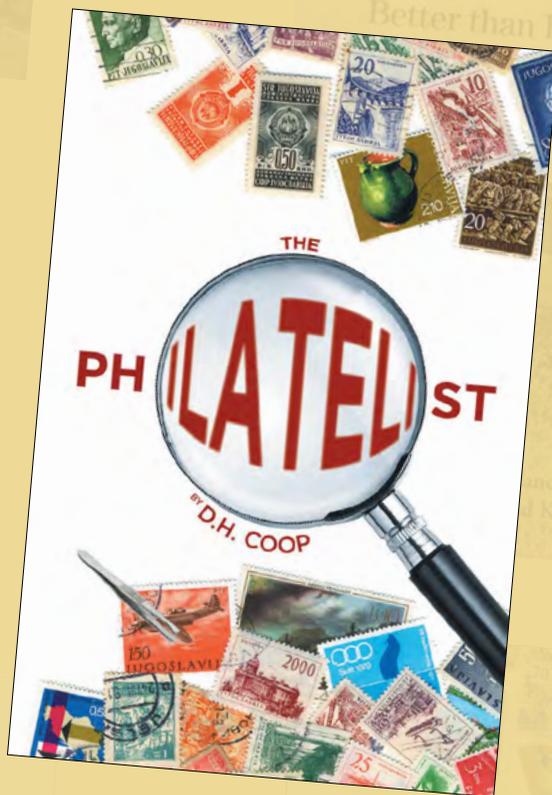
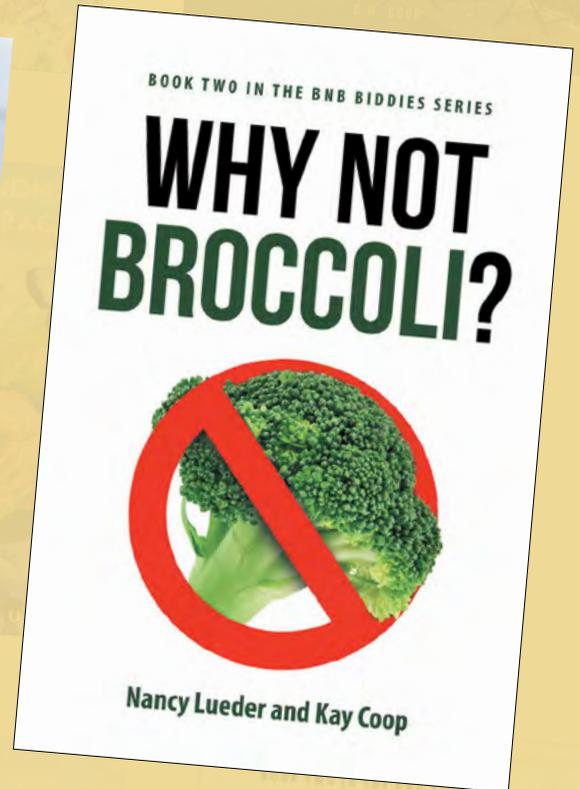
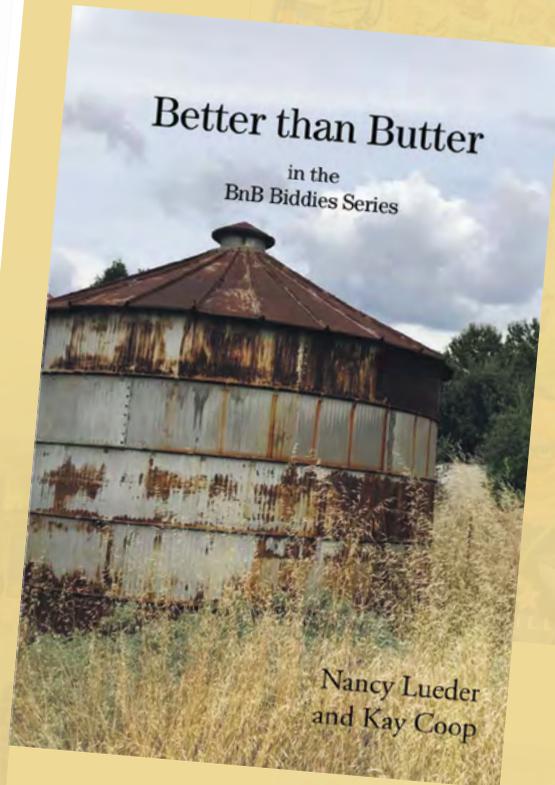
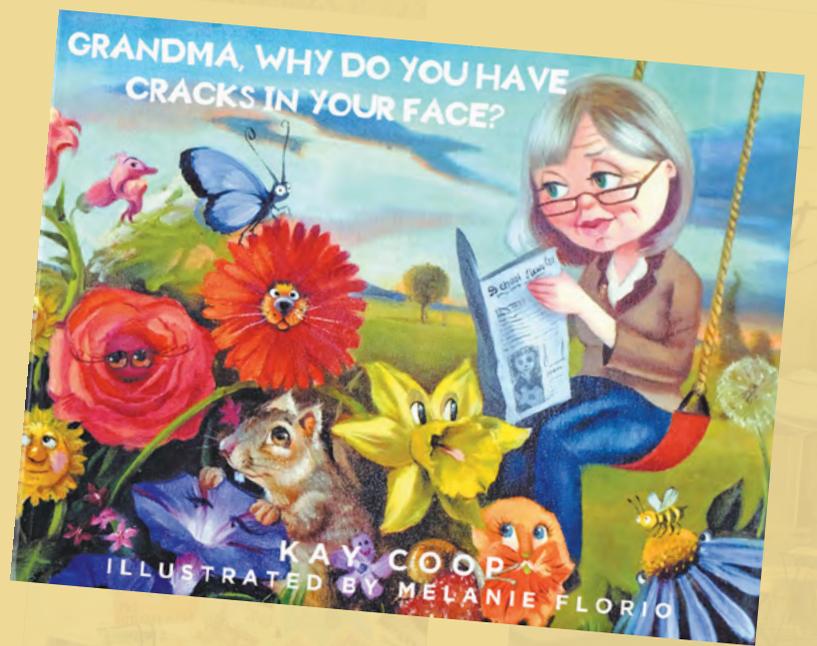
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Ask Dr. Shari



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Dear Dr Shari,

I read an article about how you are supposed to greet someone and since I am a teenager who is motivated toward my future, this is important to me. I've read up on negotiations, power suits and how to greet people. Also, we use your book in our school so I read it all so I could make sure my grades were good too. When I read this article about greetings, it made me wonder what you would think. It says that you should be respectful and it talks about how Nelson Mandela greeted Clinton, in this submissive, "bow" kind of thing as the ideal greeting. One of my teachers insists this is the best most professional greeting in any scenario, I think people would think I was weird if I bowed. I want to know how to greet people personally (new girlfriends parents, etc) and in business what is your psychology of this?— Josh

Dear Josh,

You are an amazing kid Josh. With an attitude like this, you are likely to be very successful.

So, here are my thoughts:

First here is no "one tact fits all" directive. The most honoring, impressive greeting is very personal and individual. Plenty of business gurus will disagree with me on this, but hear me out. Many factors (age, sex, stature) play into the most appropriate greeting. You must develop your greeting as opposed to follow a standard rule. For anyone who doubts that, here is a case in point:

One dear friend of mine is a very tall, strong, powerful gentleman and greets his employees and colleagues in a gentle way. His physicality is almost submissive—that of a mild, caring soul, and while his reputation and body structure exude extreme strength and power, his actions demonstrate respect and deference. His position of power perfectly balances out his demeanor of submission. He honors people with his greeting.

Another close friend, is a very intense, successful business woman. Deb stands intensely strong, shoulders back, with beaming confident smile and a firm hand shake. She has a clear, crisp voice and direct piercing eye contact...Deb exudes power and is a force of nature, but Deb weighs in at 97 pounds and stands 4'11. Her physical structure balances her presentation in a complimentary way. As a result, Deb is deliciously endearing, magnetizing and very successful.

If Kent presented as Deb does, he would frighten and likely offend people. If Deb presented as Kent does (in a business setting) she could be dismissed as weak.

So, Josh...now we are up to the question of what is right for you. Here are the main factors for you to consider:

Comfort and Confidence: You must bring "you" to the picture, not a "rule." A genuine, respectful greeting connects you to the other person while blindly following rules can be obvious and distancing. You are a motivated, intelligent teen. Own that, Josh, and get comfortable in that reality.

Demonstration of Respect: Even more important than your comfort, is your focus on respect. Stay conscious of demonstrating respect for the other person even when you cannot completely find your comfort zone. This focus will save you when you lose your confidence. While insecurities can be debilitating, there is a great deal of social forgiveness for someone who lacks total confidence, yet stays strong in their demonstration of respect.

Awareness of Others: Adjust your style relative to whom you are speaking. If you are meeting your new girlfriend's great-grandmother, you might greet her with a gentle "hold" of her hand as opposed to a grip and shake. You might make yourself "smaller" to connect with her more fully. By contrast, when applying for a job, bring the stronger side of your personality to the table.

Be sensitive to other people's body language and culture. Some people hate to shake hands or be touched at all...be "in tune" to the body language and adjust accordingly. Other people prefer to greet you with a big bear hug. It takes awareness to accommodate these preferences and personalities. But that awareness will help you develop a great skill.

Josh, I love that you are so conscious of developing yourself in this way. This, alone, tells me that you will do very well in your endeavors. Keep up the good work! Take note of the rules that you read, many are good "tips" But, above all, bring "you" to the table, proceed with respect and awareness and you will be unstoppable!

Keep me posted on your success!

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left
and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put Meet the Mayors in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **July 15, 2022**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Accomplished	Organized
Caring	Powerful
Confident	Responsibility
Determination	Role Model
Drive	Strong Willed
Enthusiastic	Suitable
Focused	Teamwork
Independent	Trustworthy
Initiative	Understanding
Intelligent	

Leadership Word Search Contest

Y	O	G	T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K	H	F	T	L
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D	E	D	L	D	R	I	V	E	U	A	A	E	E	R
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P	C	A	E	L	B	A	T	I	U	S	C	I	I	W
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